CLAIMS

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1. An automatic control device (1), comprising

input means (21, 24) for inputting samples comprising measured values (7) of cyclic voltage and/or current;

computing means (21) for computing a parameter on the basis of said samples, and for comparing the computed parameter to a predefined condition;

initiating means (21, 23) for initiating a control function in response to the parameter meeting the predefined condition; characterized by

said input means (21, 24) being arranged to input a predefined number of samples per one cycle;

said computing means (21) being arranged to compute the parameter with a discrete Fourier transform algorithm optimized on the basis of fixed coefficients corresponding to said predefined number of samples per cycle.

- 2. An automatic control device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said predefined number is a power of 2.
- 3. An automatic control device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said predefined number is 32.
- 4. An automatic control device as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that in said optimized Fourier transform algorithm calculations involving coefficients fixed to zero have been eliminated.
- 5. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that in said optimized Fourier transform algorithm multiplication by fixed coefficients 1 or -1 are avoided by use of signs.
- 6. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that in said optimized Fourier transform algorithm two or more multiplications by a fixed coefficient have been combined into a sum equation.
- 7. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that in said optimized Fourier transform algorithm samples and coefficients are brought to integer form by multiplication by a value that is fourteenth power or higher of two.
- 8. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said computing means are arranged to com-

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pute a parameter that is one of the following: root-mean-square current, power factor, (sign), distortion, earth fault current.

- 9. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the automatic control device is an electric protection device and said control function comprises isolation of a second device (3) from the electric line (2).
- 10. An automatic control device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the automatic control device is connected to a generator (40) feeding the electric line (42) and said control function comprises adjustment of the operation of said generator.
- 11. A method for automatic control of an electrically operated device, comprising

inputting samples comprising measured values of cyclic voltage and/or current;

computing a parameter on the basis of said samples;

comparing the computed parameter against a predefined condition; initiating a control function in response to the parameter meeting the predefined condition;

characterized by

fixing the number of samples input per one cycle;

computing the parameter with a discrete Fourier transform algorithm optimized on the basis of fixed coefficients corresponding to said predefined number of samples per cycle.

12. A computer program product, executable in a computer, characterized in that execution of the computer program product in the computer causes the computer to carry out the steps of claim 11.